

Why I'm Spiritually Dry, Part 3 - Romans 14:10-12 – May 12th, 2013

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series I've titled; "Why I'm Spiritually Dry."
- Before we jump into today's sermon, I'd like to share with you something the Lord has been ministering to me as of late, in regards to this.
- The Lord has impressed upon my heart how much pleasure it brings Him when His children are spiritually healthy, and emotionally happy.
- Now let me hasten to say that the kind of happiness I'm speaking of is not contingent on my circumstances, rather, it's from spiritual health.
- Better said, a spiritually healthy Christian is an emotionally happy Christian, and conversely, a spiritually dry Christian is an unhappy one.
- I say that to ask this, who among us as parents isn't pleased and blessed when our children are spiritually healthy, and emotionally happy?

3 John 1:4 NIV I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Philippians 2:13 KJV For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Ephesians 1:9 NKJV having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

- I'm of the belief that our loving Father in heaven derives much pleasure and great joy when His children are walking in His will and His way.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that when one of His children is unhealthy and not doing well, God taxes the moon and the stars for us.
- If our loving heavenly Father loves us so much that He would send His only begotten Son to save us, wouldn't He also want to help us too?
- I suppose you could say that God has too much invested in us to ever forsake us. The scriptures are replete with promise after promise.
- Now, you may be thinking to yourself that this is a firm grasp of the obvious, and as such you're wondering where I'm going with all of this.
- Well, wonder no more because the Apostle Paul here in Romans fourteen is blowing the cover of the very causes of our spiritual dryness.

- I hope prefacing today's sermon this way enables us to see this through the lens of a loving heavenly Father, Who wants us to be healthy.
- In a way this is God's way of diagnosing the real cause of our dryness, barenness, and consequently our spiritual fruitlessness, if you will.
- It's important to keep in mind how that the purpose in God doing this is to make known to us that which is according to His good pleasure.

1. Legalism (Verses 1-2)

- Here Paul says to accept those weak in faith without passing judgment on the disputable matters such as eating meat or only vegetables.

2. Judgmentalism (Verses 3-4)

- Paul says not to look down on one other, as you then judge another's servant, when God accepts both, in that He is able to make us stand.

3. Denominationalism (Verses 5-9)

- Paul says to be convinced regarding which day we worship on or from what types of foods we abstain from, lest we cause divisiveness.

4. Phariseeism (Verses 10-12)

(10) You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.
(11) It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God." (12) So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

- v10 Paul rhetorically asks why they judge and look down on their brother when, in the end, we will all stand before God's judgment seat.
- v11 He then quotes Isaiah 45:19 saying, As surely as I live says the Lord, every knee will bow before me, every tongue will confess to God.
- v12 He goes on to sort of remind them that the day is coming when each one of us will give an account of himself to God as our final Judge.

- In order to better understand where this is going, I think it would be helpful to define Phariseeism in the context of what Paul is writing here.
- In a sentence, Phariseeism is the rigid observance of external forms of religion or conduct without genuine piety rendering one a hypocrite.
- It's for this reason that Jesus would condemn the Pharisees more severely than any other group of people as is evidenced in the Gospels.

- Here's why, Pharisee were the legalist's, such that they would judge those who did not adhere to laws that they themselves never did keep.
- If that weren't bad enough, they would put on a religious mask, which interestingly, is where the original Greek word hypocrite comes from.
- Let me explain, Hypocrite comes from the Greek word *hypokrites* and was the name they used for play actors who wore a mask to perform.

- Be that as it may this is textbook if I can say it that way, in that legalism will lead to Judgmentalism, which then leads to denominationalism.
- When that infrastructure is in place, Phariseeism in all of its hypocrisy ensues, and when it does, it has the propensity to be spiritually fatal.
- By that I mean; there's a progression, which by way of illustration, will spread throughout the body spiritually like cancer cells do physically.

Mark 7:1-9 NIV The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and (2) saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (3) (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. (4) When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) (5) So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" (6) He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. (7) They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' (8) You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." (9) And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"

- Here in this passage we have the reason as to why it is Phariseeism can be so dangerous and even deadly in our Christian lives spiritually.
- We may honor the Lord with our lips but our hearts are just not in it because they're far away from the Lord, thus our worship will be in vain.
- Thankfully, verse nine gives us the remedy, where Jesus in effect says to put aside the traditions of men instead of the commands of God.